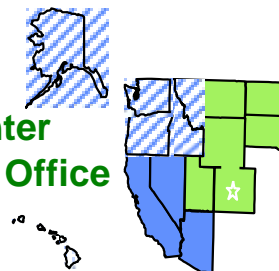




U.S. Army Environmental Center Western Regional Environmental Office

REGION X - OCTOBER 1999



WESTERN REGION REVIEW

This publication provides current information on significant regulatory developments and related information in the Federal Region X area (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) that affect U.S. Army activities and operations. We appreciate your feedback and encourage suggestions for future discussion, or comments. Please contact us at U.S. Army Environmental Center, Western Regional Environmental Office, ATTN: SFIM-AEC-WR, Building 111, Commerce City, CO 80022-2108, commercial (303) 289-0125, DSN: 749-2125, FAX: (303) 289-0272.

REGIONAL UPDATES/ALERTS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

Current and past issues of the *WESTERN REGION REVIEW* for Regions VIII, IX, and X are available on the Internet at <http://aec-www.apgea.army.mil:8080/prod/usaec/ro/western/updates/wupdates.htm>.

FEDERAL REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA):

Monitoring Schedule for Unregulated Drinking Water Contaminants Issued

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the EPA to determine whether a contaminant not currently regulated is present in drinking water supplies at levels that might warrant regulation. Monitoring for unregulated contaminants at public water systems provides an early warning of a contaminant's presence before serious public health impacts occur. The EPA has included 36 contaminants on the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR) List. Based on availability of analytical methods, the EPA has selected 12 of these contaminants for monitoring by the nation's large drinking water suppliers (those serving more than 10,000 persons) and a representative sample of small drinking water systems (serving 10,000 or fewer persons). These systems will be required to begin monitoring in 2001 to determine whether or not the contaminants are present at a level or frequency that would warrant consideration for regulation at a later date. The EPA will address additional potential contaminants on the UCMR list in future rulemaking. The final "Revision to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation for Public Water Systems" was published in the Federal Register on 17 September 1999. For more information, call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or access the EPA's drinking water Internet site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr.html>.

Clean Water Act (CWA):

Comment Period on Proposed TMDL Rule Extended

On 23 August 1999, the EPA issued two proposed rules to the current regulatory requirements for identifying impaired waters and establishing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) under the Clean Water Act: revisions to the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation (64 FR 46012); and revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program and Federal Antidegradation Policy (64 FR 46058) in support of the revisions at (64 FR 46012). The EPA sought comment on both sets of proposed rules by 22 October 1999. It is the EPA's intent to provide the public and all stakeholders an adequate period of time to fully analyze the issues and prepare comprehensive comments. Therefore,

we are extending the comment period an additional 60 days for a total comment period of 120 days. Comments on these proposals must be submitted on or before 22 December 1999. Refer to the September 1999 Western Region Review for information concerning TMDLs. An electronic version of the TMDL proposal is available via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl/index.html>.

Environmental Protection and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA):

Comment Period Extended on Proposed Rule for Lowering Lead Thresholds

The EPA is extending the comment period for the proposed rule that would lower the reporting threshold on lead under the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). The comment period will be extended 45 days from the original closing date of 17 September 1999 to 1 November 1999. Currently, facilities are not required to report their lead and lead compound releases to the air, water and land unless they manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds annually or use more than 10,000 pounds annually. Under the proposed rule the reporting threshold would be lowered to 10 pounds per facility per year and substantially increase the amount of information made available to the public. This would be a proposed increase of reporting under the TRI Program by about 13 percent, or about 15,000 reports. A copy of the notice is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/> or by calling (800) 553-0202. General information about lead is available at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/>. General information about the TRI program is available at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri/>.

Miscellaneous:

EPA Reinvention Initiative Designed to Recognize Environmental Stewardship

The EPA has announced that it will reward industries and other organizations that excel in environmental management. This action was one of 10 presented in a new EPA report entitled "Aiming for Excellence: Actions to Encourage Stewardship and Accelerate Environmental Progress." The report describes additional steps that the EPA will be taking in the next 12 to 18 months to strengthen the nation's environmental protection system. The initiative is a step towards creating a more performance-based environmental protection system. In the past, the EPA has been criticized for not providing rewards for organizations that go beyond environmental compliance, nor has it offered incentives that could encourage improvements in environmental performance.

The EPA also states that it is committed to increasing its compliance assistance efforts. Specific actions include: releasing new compliance assistance guides or checklists for major new rules within 90 days of issuance so they are available before new requirements take effect, and becoming a more effective distributor of compliance assistance information. This means giving organizations that routinely work with regulated facilities on compliance issues the tools and information they need to provide timely, helpful assistance. The EPA will take steps to improve permitting processes, including increased flexibility in meeting air permit requirements and improving understanding of the waste water (NPDES) permitting process to improve the quality of applications and expedite regulatory review. Copies of the report can be obtained by calling the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at (800) 490-9198, or from the EPA's Internet site at <http://www.epa.gov/reinvent/>.

Risk Information Available On-Line

The Risk Assessment Information System (RAIS) was designed by the U.S. Department of Energy to provide risk assessment tools and information. Among the risk assessment tools available on this site are: risk-based preliminary remediation goal (PRG) calculations used by risk managers as long-term targets during the analysis and selection of remediation alternatives; databases of toxicity profiles and values; ecological benchmarks to identify contaminants, media, and receptors that may be at risk; and a risk assessment glossary. Additional information is available in the form of risk assessment and

regulatory guidance documents, current risk management events, and links to related Internet resources. Download information from the RAIS at http://risk.lsd.ornl.gov/rap_hp.htm.

The Risk Analysis Center (RAC) is being developed as a major information resource on the subject of risks affecting humans. Its principal aim is to contribute to better public understanding of, and ability to evaluate, risk in everyday life. The primary service of this site is an abstracts database of risk-related information. The abstracts are culled from scientific, medical and technical journals, as well as books, papers and technical reports from academic, research and other institutions. The site is free; however, visitors are required to register in order to access the database. Search the database for your topic or browse through pre-defined major risk categories and sub-categories — everything from domestic, occupational, and recreational risks to health, nutrition and environmental risks. Visit the RAC at <http://www.risk-analysis-center.com/>.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

- **25-28 October 1999: Right-to-Know Conference and Exhibition - Denver, CO.** Since the implementation of the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program, the EPA has held a series of conferences to provide a forum for participants to share experiences and techniques, and profile current and future right-to-know program activities. This year's conference will concentrate on right-to-know from a multi-media perspective. A discussion panel entitled "The Role of the Media on RTK Issues in a Community" has been added to gain insight on how right-to-know issues are viewed by the media and they are reported to the public. Information about this meeting is found at <http://www.neha.org/> or by calling (202) 260-3435.
- **18 November 1999: EPA Region VIII Oil Pollution Act Workshop for Federal Facilities - Salt Lake City, UT.** This workshop will be held at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality offices, 168 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah. The focus of the training is on spill prevention, control and countermeasures and facility response plan regulations. Contact the EPA at (303) 312-6202 for questions or more information.
- **6-8 December 1999: Brownfields 1999 - Dallas TX.** The Brownfields 1999 conference, entitled "Alliances for 21st Century Livability - Environmental Challenges and Solutions" is the fourth annual brownfields conference co-sponsored by the EPA. Conference participants include community representatives, local and state governmental officials, the business community, real estate investors and environmentalists. Brownfields '99 will be a critical avenue to bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to foster effective partnerships that facilitate the revitalization of contaminated properties. Conference attendees may register online using the Online Registration Form found at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/bf99.htm> or by calling the Brownfields '99 Hotline at (877) 343-5374.
- **27-30 March 2000: National Defense Industrial Association - Long Beach, CA.** The National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) will host the 26th Environmental Symposium and Exhibition entitled "Sustaining DoD Readiness: Changes and Challenges in DoD Environmental Priorities." Contact the NDIA at (703) 247-2572 or visit their Internet site at <http://ndia.org/> for registration information.
- **4-7 April 2000: Pacific Environmental Restoration Conference (PERC) - Honolulu, HI.** The theme of the upcoming conference is "Working Together to Achieve Total Environmental Restoration in the Pacific." This conference offers the opportunity for the cross-feed of information and experiences in cleaning sites impacted by industrial and military activities. Registration information can be found at the PERC website at <http://www.perc2000.org/>, or by calling (808) 449-1584.
- **25-27 April 2000: National Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference - Austin, TX.** The National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC) conference, entitled "Monitoring for the New Millennium," will focus on strategies to improve water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

Call the NWMQC at (410) 356-8993 for details or visit their Internet site at <http://nwqmc.site.net/> for registration information.

ALASKA

Regulatory Developments

Underground Storage Tanks:

- **Proposed Rule: Underground Storage Tanks Regulations.** The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) proposes to amend Regulation 18 AAC 78, Underground Storage Tanks (UST). The amendments would change grant and loan eligibility provisions, grant caps, eligible costs, and procedures for financial assistance from the Storage Tank Assistance Fund for owners and operators of regulated underground petroleum storage tanks; change initial inspection and starter tag requirements for UST facilities; update the UST Procedures Manual; and make technical changes updating cross references in 18 AAC 78. The public comment period ends 15 November 1999. Contact the ADEC at (907) 465-5203 for additional information.

IDAHO

Regulatory Developments

No significant regulatory developments were noted for the State of Idaho during the reporting period.

OREGON

Regulatory Developments

Air Quality:

- **Direct Final Rule: Approval of SIP.** The EPA approves revisions to the Oregon State Implementation Plan (SIP). The Lakeview, Oregon PM10 Control Plan is intended to bring about the attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal ten micrometers (PM10). The SIP was submitted to satisfy federal requirements for moderate PM10 nonattainment areas. This direct final rule is effective on 22 November 1999. Contact the EPA at (206) 553-1388 for additional information.

WASHINGTON

Regulatory Developments

Air Quality:

- **Proposed Rule: Outdoor Burning.** The Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) is proposing amendments of its open burning rules (WAC 173-425). The rules apply to all types of outdoor burning except agricultural and silvicultural burning. The purpose of the proposal is to implement a statutory requirement that the WDOE prohibit burning in certain areas, require permits for most types of burning, and foster and encourage reasonable alternatives to burning. The proposed revisions only prohibit residential and land clearing burning in areas where outdoor burning is prohibited by statute. They also add a prohibition on land clearing burning in areas with a population density of one

thousand people per square mile. They also replace the old process for determining if a reasonable alternative to burning exists for the various types of organic refuse in each area of the state, a determination which can result in that type of burning being prohibited in the area. They also impose some restrictions on burning demolition debris, burning hauled materials, burning when a fire danger burn ban has been declared, burning that is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of any person, that causes damage to property or business, or that causes a nuisance, and burning in outdoor containers. The revisions also identify all of the types of burning that require a permit, they establish a process for identifying the permitting and enforcing agencies for each type of burning and for determining the type of permit to be used, and they establish a revised general permit for residential burning. Additional information is available from the WDOE by calling (206) 438-7726.

Solid/Hazardous Waste:

- **Direct Final Rule: Approval of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants.** The EPA approves Sections 111(d)/129 of the State Plan submitted by the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) on 4 January 1999. These regulations dictate the Emissions Guidelines (EG) applicable to existing large Municipal Waste Combustors (MWCs) with capacity to combust more than 250 tons/day of municipal solid waste (MSW). See 40 CFR part 60, subpart Cb. This action is effective on 28 September 1999. For additional information, contact the EPA at (206) 553-1814.